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ABSTRACT

3 Systems and methods for providing a mixture of drilling fluid
4 and beads into a flow of drilling fluid, e.g., flowing in a conduit
5 or flowing upwardly within an annulus of a riser, the method in
6 certain aspects including: introducing an initial stream including
7 a mixture of drilling fluid and beads into a hydrocyclone;
8 processing the initial stream with the hydrocyclone producing a
9 first stream and a second stream, the first stream containing
10 drilling fluid and beads and the second stream containing drilling
11 fluid; and feeding the first stream to shale shaker apparatus
12 and/or to centrifugal liquid/liquid separator apparatus producing
13 a primary stream and a secondary stream, the primary stream
14 including beads and drilling fluid; and feeding the primary stream
15 into the conduit or into an annulus of the riser.
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